

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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R 140812Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3443

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SCUL, TW, CH

SUBJEC5: CONFUCIANISM LIVES

1. SUMMARY: THE ROC HAS RESPONDED TO THE ANTI-CONFUCIAN CAMPAIGN ON THE MAINLAND BY LAUNCHING ITS OWN PRO-CONFUCIAN MOVEMENT. STATUES OF THE SAGE HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITIES ABROAD, PROVIDED TO "SISTER CITIES", ETC. THE LATEST MANIFESTATION IS STRONG CRITICISM OF CERTAIN TEXTBOOKS IN USE SINCE 1971 AND THEIR EDITOR. END SUMMARY.

2. FOR MANY YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A TENDENCY IN THE ROC TO MIRROR-IMAGE MASS MOVEMENTS ON THE MAINLAND, WITH THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN THE PRC, FOR EXAMPLE, LEADING TO ITS INVERSE TWIN, THE CULTURAL RENAISSANCE MOVEMENT IN THE ROC. THUS THE ANTI-LIN, ANTI-CONFUCIUS MOVEMENT ON THE MAINLAND LED THE ROC TO SPARK A PRO-CONFUCIAN MOVEMENT HERE. STATUES OF THE SAGE HAVE BEEN SENT TO OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITIES, "CONFUCIAN GARDENS" HAVE BEEN BUILT IN "SISTER CITIES" IN NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA AND, IN GENERAL, THE

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ROC AUTHORITIES HAVE ENCOURAGED ALL TO RESTUDY THE CON-

FUCIAN CLASSICS.

3. LIKE THE ANTI-LIN, ANTI-CONFUCIAUS MOVEMENT, THE PRO-CONFUCIUS MOVEMENT HAS ALSO CLAIMED ITS VICTIMS, THE MOST PUBLICIZED AT THE MOMENT BEING DR. CHOU HO, THE EDITOR OF A SERIES OF BOOKS ON TRADITIONAL CHINESE PHILOSOPHY USED IN HIGH SCHOOLS HERE SINCE 1971. THE CHARGE LEVELLED AGAINST DR. CHOU IS THAT IN VOLUME SIX OF THE SERIES, HE DROPPED FROM THE PREVIOUS EDITION THE BIOGRAPHY OF SU WANG AND REPLACED IT WITH A SELECTION FROM THE NIAN SYNASTY HISTORIAN SSU-MA CHIEN, WHICH DEFENDS LI LING. SINCE SU WU WAS A GENERAL WHO WAS TAKEN PRISONER BY THE HUNS AROUND 100 B.C., BUT REFUSED TO COOPERATE DURING HIS 19 YEARS IN CAPTIVITY, AND LI LING WAS A GENERAL WHO SURRENDERED TO THE HUNS (DEFENDED BY SSU-MA CHIEN ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE, HIS ARMY HAVING BEEN POORLY EQUIPPED BY THE THEN EMPEROR, DR. CHOU'S SUBSTITUTION IS NOW BEING ATTACKED AS ILL-DISGUISED SUPPORT FOR PRC REUNIFICATION PROPAGANDA. DR. CHOU IS ADDITIONALLY ATTACKED FOR OMITTING SELECTIONS CRITICAL OF CHIN SHI HUANG TI (RECENTLY PRAISED BY MAO), INCLUDING SELECTIONS FROM LEGALIST PHILOSOPHERS (RECENTLY PRAISED BY CHIANG CHING), AND "REPLACING PATRIOTIC POEMS WITH DECADENT POETRY." DR. CHOU'S DEFENSE THAT VOLUME SIX WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE SELECTIONS FROM "THE HUNDRED SCHOOLS" (I.E. THE NON-CONFUCIAN PHILOSOPHERS AND WRITERS) HAS BEEN DEEMED INSUFFICIENT, AND THE CONTROL YUAN'S CHARGE THAT CHOU HAS BEEN INFECTED BY THE ANTI-CONFUCIAN CAMPAIGN IS GRAVE INDEED.

4. AS GUARDIANS OF CULTURE, THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE CURRENT TEXTS WILL BE REPLACED DURING THE SPRING SCHOOL TERM. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST CHOU AND HIS CO-WORKERS (A TOTAL OF 28 SCHOLARS WERE INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE SERIES) IS NOT YET KNOWN. MEANWHILE, MANY IN EDUCATIONAL CIRCLES HERE ARE SERIOUSLY DISTURBED AND REVIEW THEIR PAST WRITING WITH ANXIOUS EYES. UNGER

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## Message Attributes

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